

What is claimed:

1. A method of synchronizing messages between a first system and a second system, comprising the steps of:

- 5 retrieving a first folder hierarchy from the first system;
 retrieving a second folder hierarchy from the second system;
 synchronizing the second folder hierarchy to the first folder hierarchy;
 retrieving a first plurality of messages from the first system, the first
plurality of messages being stored in folders within the first folder hierarchy;
 retrieving a second plurality of messages from the second system, the
10 second plurality of messages being stored in folders within the second folder
hierarchy;
 comparing the first plurality of messages to the second plurality of
messages to identify common messages stored in both the first and second
folder hierarchies;
15 determining whether any of the common messages are stored in
different folders in the first and second folder hierarchies; and
 if a common message is located in different folders of the first and
second folder hierarchies, then synchronizing the messages by moving the
common message to a new folder within the first folder hierarchy or by
20 moving the common message to a new folder within the second folder
hierarchy.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of initiating
communication between the first and second systems by electrically coupling
25 the first system to the second system.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of initiating
communicating between the first and second systems by opening a connecting
30 via a wireless data communication network.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first system is a host system and the second system is a mobile data communication device.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing a wireless data communication network for enabling communications between the host system and the mobile data communication device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the synchronizing the second folder hierarchy to the first folder hierarchy step further includes the steps of:

10 associating a unique folder ID with each folder in the first and second folder hierarchies;

 generating a folder list including the folder IDs of the folders in the first folder hierarchy;

 providing the folder list to the second system; and

15 updating the second folder hierarchy to match the first folder hierarchy using the information contained in the folder list.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing step further includes the steps of:

20 associating a unique message ID with each message stored in the first and second systems;

 comparing the message IDs of the messages retrieved from the first system with the message IDs of the messages retrieved from the second system in order to determine if any common messages are stored on the first

25 and second systems.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

 receiving a new message at the first system;

 associating a unique message ID with the new message; and

30 transmitting the new message to the second system.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
receiving the new message at the second system; and
storing the new message in a first folder within the second folder
hierarchy at the second system.

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10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
storing the new message into a first folder within the first folder
hierarchy at the first system, wherein the first folder within the first folder
hierarchy is associated with the first folder within the second folder hierarchy.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first folders are inbox folders.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

15 moving the new message to a second folder within the second folder
hierarchy;
associating a folder ID of the second folder with the new message; and
setting a move flag within the new message to indicate that the new
message has been moved to the second folder.

20 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step further includes the
steps of:

25 associating a folder ID with each message stored in the first and second
folder hierarchies, wherein the folder ID identifies the folder location of each
message within the respective folder hierarchy, and wherein associated folders
in the first and second hierarchies are identified by the same folder ID; and
comparing the folder IDs of any common messages to determine
whether the common messages are stored in the same folders within the first
and second folder hierarchies.

30 14. A method of synchronizing messages stored in a folder hierarchy at a host
system and a corresponding folder hierarchy at a mobile data communication

device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message at the host system;

storing the message in a first folder of the folder hierarchy at the host system;

5 transmitting the message to the mobile data communication device;

storing the message in a first folder of the folder hierarchy at the mobile data communication device;

moving the message from the first folder to a second folder at the mobile data communication device;

10 coupling the mobile data communication device to the host system;

detecting that the message has been moved to the second folder at the mobile data communication device; and

in response to the detection step, moving the message from the first folder at the host system to a second folder of the folder hierarchy at the host

15 system that corresponds to the second folder of the folder hierarchy at the
mobile data communication device.

15. A method of synchronizing messages stored in a folder hierarchy at a host system and a corresponding folder hierarchy at a mobile data communication

20 device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message at the host system;

storing the message in a first folder of the folder hierarchy at the host system;

transmitting the message to the mobile data communication device;

25 storing the message in a first folder of the folder hierarchy at the
mobile data communication device;

moving the message from the first folder to a second folder at the mobile data communication device;

transmitting a move message from the mobile data communication
30 device to the host system indicating that the message has been moved to the
second folder at the mobile data communication device; and

receiving the move message at the host system and moving the message stored in the first folder at the host system to a second folder at the host system that corresponds to the second folder at the mobile data communication device.

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16. A method of synchronizing a first device to a second device, comprising the steps of:

providing a first folder hierarchy at the first device;

providing a second folder hierarchy at the second device;

10 synchronizing the second folder hierarchy to the first folder hierarchy;

retrieving a first plurality of messages stored within the first folder hierarchy and retrieving a second plurality of messages stored within the second folder hierarchy, wherein at least one of the first plurality of messages and at least one of the second plurality of messages are common messages;

15 determining whether the common messages are stored in similar folders within the first and second folder hierarchies; and

if the common messages are not stored in similar folders, then synchronizing the common messages so that they are stored in similar folders within the first and second folder hierarchies.

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17. A method of synchronizing a first device to a second device, comprising the steps of:

providing a first folder hierarchy at the first device;

providing a second folder hierarchy at the second device;

25 retrieving a first plurality of messages stored within the first folder hierarchy and retrieving a second plurality of messages stored within the second folder hierarchy;

determining whether the first device executed an operation on a message stored in the first folder hierarchy, and if so, then executing the same operation on a corresponding message stored in the second folder hierarchy at the second device.

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18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of synchronizing the second folder hierarchy to the first folder hierarchy.

5 19. A system for synchronizing messages between a first device and a second device, comprising:

a pair of matching folders, one of the pair of matching folders being located on the first device, the other of the pair of matching folders being located on the second device;

10 a pair of matching messages, one of the pair of matching messages being located on the first device, the other of the pair of matching messages being located on the second device; and

15 means for moving the pair of messages such that if one of the pair of matching messages is moved to one of the pair of matching folders, the other matching message is moved to the other matching folder.

20 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the first device is a host system and the second device is a mobile data communications device.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein each pair of matching messages has a unique message ID such that the means for moving comprises means for matching the unique message IDs of the message on the first device to the message on the second device by matching the unique message IDs.

22. A method of indicating at a host system a state of a message at a mobile communications device, the method comprising of the following steps:

30 (A) altering the state of a first message at the mobile communications device thereby creating an altered state;

- (B) forwarding a status signal to the host system; and,
- (C) changing at the host system a first message status icon based on the altered state at the mobile communications device.

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23. The method of claim 22, wherein step (A) is the act of forwarding the first message from the mobile communication device.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein step (A) is the act of replying to the first message from the mobile communication device.

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25. The method of claim 22, wherein step (A) is the act of reading the first message at the mobile communications device.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein step (C) results in the first message status icon representing a graphical representation of at least the forwarded state.

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27. The method of claim 23, wherein step (C) results in the first message status icon representing a graphical representation of at least the replied state.

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28. The method of claim 23, wherein step (C) results in the first message status icon representing a graphical representation of at least the read state.

29. The method of claim 22, wherein the mobile communications device is a PDA.

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30. The method of claim 22, wherein the mobile communications device is a pager.

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31. The method of claim 22, wherein the mobile communications device is a two-way pager.

5 32. The method of claim 22, wherein the mobile communications device is a cellular telephone.

33. The method of claim 22, wherein the mobile communications device is an Internet appliance.

10 34. A method of indicating at the host system the state of the message at the mobile communications device comprising of the following steps:

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- (A) redirecting a first message from the host system to the mobile communications device, wherein the first message at the host system has a first message status icon;
 - 15 (B) receiving the redirected first message from the host system at the mobile communications device;
 - (C) altering the state of the first message at the mobile communications device thereby creating an altered state;
 - (D) forwarding a status signal to the host system; and,
 - 20 (E) changing at the host system the first message status icon based on the action taken at the mobile communications device.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein step (A) is the act of forwarding the first message from the mobile communication device.

25 36. The method of claim 34, wherein step (A) is the act of replying to the first message from the mobile communication device.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein step (A) is the act of reading the first message at the mobile communications device.

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38. The method of claim 35, wherein step (C) results in the first message status icon representing a graphical representation of at least the forwarded state.

5 39. The method of claim 36, wherein step (C) results in the first message status icon representing a graphical representation of at least the replied state.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein step (C) results in the first message status icon representing a graphical representation of at least the read state.

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41. The method of claim 34, wherein the mobile communications device is a PDA.

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42. The method of claim 34, wherein the mobile communication device is a pager.

43. The method of claim 34, wherein the mobile communication device is a two-way pager.

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44. The method of claim 34, wherein the mobile communication device is a cellular telephone.

45. The method of claim 34, wherein the mobile communication device is an Internet appliance

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46. The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

(F) forwarding a read-receipt to a read-receipt requester's device.

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47. The method of claim 46, wherein the requester's device is a mobile communication device.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein the requester's device is a personal computer.

5 49. The method of claim 46, wherein the requester's device is a two-way pager.

50. The method of claim 46, wherein the requester's device is a Internet appliance.

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